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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
FARMINGTON RESOURCE AREA

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EAST ROSWELL GRAZING MANAGEMENT AREA

Rangeland Management Program



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UPDATE REPORT

Sixth Update

BLM Roswell District

APRIL 1986



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Roswell District Office

P. O. Box 1397

Roswell, New Mexico 88201

IN REPLY
REFER TO:

4190 (064)

April 8, 1986

Dear Public Land User:

Enclosed is a copy of the East Roswell Rangeland Management Program Summary Update for 1985. This document provides a report of the status on the implementation of the East Roswell Rangeland Management Program since the completion of the East Roswell Grazing Environmental Statement (a study required by the National Environmental Policy Act in 1979).

In line with the Bureau of Land Management's policy requiring accountability in rangeland management and in decisions that contribute to the improvement of the forage resource, an updated report on the progress and current status of the program is prepared periodically. This is the sixth update for the East Roswell Environmental Statement Area.

We trust the enclosed document is easily read and understood. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this document, please write or call your respective area managers listed below:

Charles Dahlen, Area Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Carlsbad Resource Area Headquarters
P. O. Box 1778
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220
(505) 887-6544

Phil Kirk, Area Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Roswell Resource Area
P. O. Box 1857
Roswell, New Mexico 88201
(505) 624-1790

Sincerely,

Francis R. Cherry, Jr.
District Manager

Enclosure

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USDI-BLMINTRODUCTION

In April 1980 the Roswell District of the BLM published the East Roswell Rangeland Management Program Summary Report, which described the BLM guidelines for managing livestock grazing on public lands east of the Pecos River in Chaves, Eddy and Lea Counties.

This report summarizes and highlights programs accomplished during the past five years towards meeting the goals and objectives stated in the 1980 report. This document is the sixth update and brings the reader up to date on major developments.

Grazing Use Adjustment

Since the monitoring study program began in 1981, a total of 81 allotments have had livestock adjustments amounting to a net change of 26,245 AUM's from their original preference. This change is the result of five years of monitoring studies. Table 1 shows the net change by allotment category. Tables 2, 3, and 4 are the individual allotment summaries showing the net change by category. There are 51 allotments remaining to be evaluated in the Carlsbad Resource Area. These allotments were not issued initial decisions until 1981, because of protests and appeals. They will be evaluated based upon five years of monitoring studies, and adjustments will be made prior to the 1987 grazing season.

The majority of the allotments are showing a stable to slightly upward trend in range condition. Utilization has been slight to moderate overall. Annual precipitation varied by 9 to 17 inches throughout the area. Generally, further south toward Texas, precipitation decreased. Overall it was slightly above normal.

Cooperative Management Plans and Range Improvements

During the past five years, 53 cooperative management plans have been written in cooperation with the livestock users. These plans are designed to enhance range condition by improving distribution of livestock and providing the proper use and periodic rest of desirable forage on public land. These plans specify goals and objectives for grazing management and the steps required to attain the desired results on individual allotments.

During the past five years over \$2 million have been spent on range improvements (See Table 5). The goal of the Bureau's rangeland improvement program is to improve the condition of the public lands for multiple uses by investing in economically and environmentally sound rangeland improvements. These funds were used for on-the-ground rehabilitation, protection, and improvement of rangelands which included fence construction, water development, brush control, and enhancement of wildlife habitat. These projects clearly prevent further rangeland deterioration and improve forage condition with resulting benefits to wildlife, watershed protection, and livestock production.

Wildlife

The East Roswell Rangeland Management Program Summary included the development of wildlife habitat improvement projects to insure that wildlife habitat requirements were met.

Approximately 55,000 acres of shinnery oak habitat have been treated since 1981. Conversion of the shinnery oak to a grassland has enhanced the habitat for prairie chickens as evidenced by prairie chicken booming ground census studies.

In order to protect valuable wetland habitat, the Overflow Wetlands Habitat Management Plan was written in 1982 encompassing 4112 acres. This area is located south of the Bottomless Lakes State Park.

Since 1981, several wildlife enhancement projects have been completed. These projects have been evaluated to determine their effectiveness and the requirements for future developments. There have been three spring exclosures constructed, three inverted umbrellas with wildlife exclosures, and eleven wildlife habitat protection exclosures erected around brushy draws, dirt tanks, playas and tree groves.

Summary

The first five year cycle of monitoring studies has been completed on all of the east side allotments in the Roswell Resource Area. The studies cycle has been completed on 7 allotments in the Carlsbad Resource Area with the remainder to be completed next year.

The evaluation of these completed studies indicates that the acreage in satisfactory condition has increased from 22% to 37%. This can be attributed to the range improvements, vegetative treatments and initial adjustments in livestock numbers. Additional adjustments have been completed based on the five years of studies data, and range improvement projects will continue. Thus it is anticipated that the acreage of public land in satisfactory condition should continue to increase.

Monitoring studies will continue on all "I" (Improve) category allotments to measure changes in condition and range trends.

Subsequent RPS updates will be published to report progress as it occurs.

Table 1
Allotments with Five Years of Monitoring Studies Completed

Category	Number of Allotments	Grazing Preference AUM'S	Acres	AUM'S Determined by Inventory and Five Years of Monitoring Studies	AUM'S Adjustment	Agreements or Decision Issued
M	30	32,227	171,526	29,777	- 2450	Yes
I	25	78,994	423,197	59,497	- 19727	Yes
C	46	12,035	36,792	7,967	- 4068	Yes
Total		123,256	558,558	97,241	-26245	Yes

M = Maintain (Rangeland conditions satisfactory and no resource conflicts).

I = Improve (Rangeland conditions not satisfactory and potential resource conflicts).

C = Custodial (Little to no potential for improvement).

The category for each allotment in the M & I category shown in Table 2 & 3 was determined through the analysis and evaluation of the 5 years of monitoring studies.

* The category "C" adjustments were based on the initial inventory completed in 1977 & 78. Monitoring studies were completed on only 5 of the C category allotments.

Table 2

Allotment No	Grazing Preference AUM'S	AUM'S Determined by Inventory and Five Years of Monitoring Studies	AUM'S Adjustment	Category	Agreements or Decision Issued
5005	1200	1020	- 180	M	Yes
5007	480	517	+ 37	M	Yes
5010	516	432	- 84	M	Yes
5012	720	720	0	M	Yes
5019	638	638	0	M	Yes
5021	853	853	0	M	Yes
5029	663	633	- 30	M	Yes
5032	1656	1786	+ 130	M	Yes
5034	2869	2392	- 477	M	Yes
5037	2805	3021	+ 216	M	Yes
5038	1590	1350	- 240	M	Yes
5039	336	336	0	M	Yes
5041	180	117	- 63	M	Yes
5047	386	476	+ 90	M	Yes
5049	840	978	+ 138	M	Yes
5053	2847	2568	- 279	M	Yes
5055	774	774	0	M	Yes
5057	352	352	0	M	Yes
5058	528	442	- 86	M	Yes
5062	539	605	+ 66	M	Yes
5065	1042	1042	0	M	Yes
5066	406	438	+ 32	M	Yes
5072	1654	1104	- 550	M	Yes
5077	2978	2455	- 523	M	Yes
5078	967	967	0	M	Yes
5079	377	373	- 4	M	Yes
5082	56	62	+ 6	M	Yes
5091	1796	1421	- 375	M	Yes
5092	1106	1125	+ 19	M	Yes
5094	1073	780	- 293	M	Yes
TOTAL	32,227	29,777	-2450		

Table 3

Allotment No	Grazing Preference AUM'S	AUM'S Determined by Inventory and Five Years of Monitoring Studies	AUM'S Adjustment	Category	Agreements or Decision Issued
5014	384	456	+ 72	I	Yes
5018	584	584	0	I	Yes
5024	663	804	+ 141	I	Yes
5025	944	944	0	I	Yes
5028	724	724	0	I	Yes
5043	1650	1590	- 60	I	Yes
5044	297	297	0	I	Yes
5046	1573	1573	0	I	Yes
5051	3109	3109	0	I	Yes
5063	449	449	0	I	Yes
5068	2145	1989	- 156	I	Yes
5069	1785	1685	- 100	I	Yes
5073	549	549	0	I	Yes
5075	37,940	27,210	- 10,730	I	Yes
5083	586	366	- 220	I	Yes
5084	1683	1245	- 230	I	No
5085	518	568	+ 50	I	Yes
5090	567	567	0	I	Yes
6038	5056	3876	- 1180	I	Yes
6039	2580	842	- 1738	I	Yes
6046	857	720	- 137	I	Yes
6051	2304	2040	- 264	I	Yes
7025	420	437	+ 17	I	Yes
7033	1983	1422	- 561	I	Yes
7040	11,327	6696	- 4631	I	Yes
TOTAL	80,677	60,742	- 19,727		

Table 4

Allotment No	Grazing Preference AUM'S	AUM'S Determined by Inventory and Five Years of Monitoring Studies	AUM'S Adjustment	Category	Agreements or Decision Issued
5001	660	348	- 312	C	Yes
5002	72	25	- 47	C	Yes
5003	40	15	- 25	C	Yes
5004	768	436	- 332	C	Yes
5006	48	11	- 37	C	Yes
5008	490	351	- 139	C	Yes
5009	624	236	- 388	C	Yes
5011	516	204	- 312	C	Yes
5013	384	182	- 202	C	Yes
5014	72	72	0	C	Yes
5015	36	13	- 23	C	Yes
5016	144	117	- 27	C	Yes
5017	60	37	- 23	C	Yes
5022	36	79	+ 43	C	Yes
5023	212	169	- 43	C	Yes
5026	216	214	- 2	C	Yes
5027	144	49	- 95	C	Yes
5030	84	46	- 38	C	Yes
5031	243	210	- 33	C	Yes
5033	144	91	- 53	C	Yes
5035	192	90	- 102	C	Yes
5039	16	9	- 7	C	Yes
5039	80	46	- 34	C	Yes
5040	84	144	+ 60	C	Yes
5042	108	68	- 40	C	Yes
5045	316	135	- 181	C	Yes
5048	204	112	- 92	C	Yes
5050	468	224	- 244	C	Yes
5052	12	9	- 3	C	Yes
5054	84	129	+ 45	C	Yes
5056	32	32	0	C	Yes
5059	228	106	- 122	C	Yes
5060	24	31	+ 7	C	Yes
5061	48	83	+ 35	C	Yes

Table 4 Continued

Allotment No	Grazing Preference AUM'S	AUM'S Determined by Inventory and Five Years of Monitoring Studies	AUM'S Adjustment	Category	Agreements or Decision Issued
5064	176	109	- 67	C	Yes
5070	60	52	- 8	C	Yes
5071	12	11	- 1	C	Yes
5081	178	111	- 67	C	Yes
5089	180	60	- 120	C	Yes
5093	20	4	- 16	C	Yes
5095	36	51	+ 15	C	Yes
6004	444	420	- 24	C	Yes
6027	2082	1900	- 182	C	Yes
6029	1171	686	- 485	C	Yes
6030	612	304	- 308	C	Yes
7024	175	136	- 39	C	Yes
Total	12,035	7967	-4068		

Table 5

FY 81 - FY 85 Rangeland Improvements

<u>Type of Project</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Water Development	91 New Waters	545,748
Fences	103 Miles	150,747
Shinnery Oak Control	55,568 Acres	842,400
Mesquite Control	36,900 Acres	<u>498,366</u>
	Total	\$2,037,261

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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